



Cuba's Hurricane Recovery Solution

The frequency of extreme weather in the past decade has been attributed to global warming (<http://tinyurl.com/5peel>). Many scientists believe the future will bring even more turbulent weather events and disasters. The devastation and hardship brought by natural disasters can eradicate development gains, and destroy livelihoods and health. It is critical countries help people to get back to their normal lives as fast as possible.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (<http://www.ipcc.ch>) says extreme weather events will become more frequent, more widespread and/or more intense during the 21st century. Extreme weather is already costly for countries in the global South. The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) found that the cost of droughts, storm surges, hurricanes and floods reached a record US\$210 billion in 2005.

The Caribbean island of Cuba (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuba>) was particularly affected in 2008 by extreme weather, as the island was battered by two devastating hurricanes - Ike and Gustav – and a lesser one, Paloma. It was the only time that three major hurricanes have hit Cuba in the same season, with just a 10 day gap between Gustav and Ike. The hurricanes were described as the "worst ever" storms by Cuban officials

The cost to Cuba has been high: Damages from Ike and Gustav are estimated at more than US\$5 billion (<http://tinyurl.com/ba7xny>).

Between 2001 and 2005, Cuba experienced seven major hurricanes. Half a million houses were damaged, and 90,000 destroyed. In the 2008 storms, 619,981 homes were damaged and 70,409 destroyed, with 468,995 homes losing their roof tiles.

But Cuba has developed a pioneering way to quickly rebuild after disasters on a tight budget and using local resources. By using so-called ecomaterials - construction materials that are ecologically and economically viable – the Cuban approach erects sturdy homes, rather than just temporary shelters.

It is a common experience after a disaster in a developing country for all the resources to be spent on imported emergency shelter – tents, shacks, plastic sheeting – that then become permanent and inadequate homes. These makeshift dwellings provide poor security and shelter from the elements. For Cuba, the enormous scale of the repair and reconstruction job is especially difficult because of the fuel shortages and building supply restrictions brought on by the United States' embargo on the country (<http://tinyurl.com/4alwrb>). In turn, Cubans are adaptable and creative with their solutions.

The Cuban approach builds permanent homes that can be expanded, teaches homebuilding skills and creates permanent employment in manufacturing building materials.

By developing technologies to manufacture building materials – bricks, concrete blocks, cement, roofing tiles, bamboo furniture - on site using local resources, the approach lets homeless people themselves rebuild sturdy, high-quality homes, rather than waiting for outside building crews to come and do it, or being dependent on expensive, imported building materials. By doing this, jobs are created and wealth and gets the community back on its feet after the disaster.

"This is all about going back to the roots: wood, concrete and bricks," said the passionate brains behind this approach, Fernando Martirena, a professor at CIDEM – the Centre for Research and Development of Structures and Materials – at the Universidad Central de Las Villas, in Santa Clara, Cuba (www.ecosur.org).

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"The so-called free market has demonstrated it can not tackle this problem of the urgent housing crisis in the world."

At the heart of the Cuban approach are easy-to-use machines that produce the building materials. They range from hand-cranked presses that make mud and clay bricks, to vibrating presses for concrete brick making.

Training the homeless population to do the building themselves allows reconstruction work to begin straight away, rather than waiting for professional building crews to arrive on the scene. It is also psychologically more empowering for the people to be active participants in the rebuilding of their lives. The pride the people have in their new homes is visible.

And quality has been critical for the programme so it can become sustainable and long-lasting:

"The driving force for this project is need," Martirena said. "If we want to obtain sustainability, we must go beyond need. After disaster, need is the driving force. But after two years, when most things have been completed, it must be a business. Good, beautiful, cheap. Normally, this technology is cheaper than industrial technology."

To stay prepared for future natural disasters that destroy or damage homes, the Cubans have established strategic reserves of micro-concrete roofing tiles. The lightweight but strong tiles can be used to quickly erect a small module home, and then the home can be expanded and built on as resources and time allow.

Martirena, a former UNHABITAT award-winner, believes this approach to building materials brings prosperity back to rural areas and helps stem the flood of people to cities and urban sprawl seen across the global South.

"You have to go back to the origin of the problem: people are looking for money and better jobs. It is not because they like the cities; they hate the cities!"

"Bamboo harvesting (for furniture making) can bring people three times more income than they would make in the cities. They are really making money."

For Cuba, this has been a journey from a highly centralised and fuel-dependent approach to house building, to a decentralised, low-fuel approach. From 1959, the year of the revolution, until 1988, Cuba built housing using a centralised factory method to make building materials. Prefabricated houses were erected across the country. The materials were delivered by road and rail, all fuelled by cheap oil from the former Soviet Union.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, oil became scarce and the transport network the building industry depended on fell apart. This time was called the "special period."

Apart from natural disasters, Cuba's housing stock has suffered under the US embargo. The country's housing began to decay as repairs were not happening and new houses were not being built. When people did want to do the repairs themselves, the lack of building supplies made it difficult for them to do so. Cuba realized it had to do things differently: the solutions had to be local, energy-efficient, and easy to use.

CIDEM oversees workshops, training and building teams across the country. It tests new materials and designs in its labs before they are deployed as building solutions. The ecomaterials are chosen for low energy use and the ability to recycle waste. Being inexpensive, they offer a sustainable solution for the poor.

In the community of Jatibonico, single mothers make up 40 percent of those who have benefited from the building projects. One woman proudly showed off the home she had built in the Spanish style, complete with Greco-roman columns on the porch. It has a clean, modern bathroom with shower and toilet.

Martirena is currently working on a book of case studies about CIDEM's projects helping Cubans cope with reduced oil dependency.

CIDEM collaborates with universities around the world and has 19 workshops employing over 200 people in Cuba, and 15 in other countries in Latin America and Africa. It works with the Ecosur initiative and all the machines and advice on how to use them is available from the Ecosur website (www.ecosur.org).

LINKS:

- "How Cuba Survived Peak Oil" is an award-winning film on how Cuba transitioned from a highly mechanized, industrial agricultural system to one using organic methods of farming and local, urban gardens. It is an unusual look into the Cuban culture during this economic crisis, which they call "The Special Period."

Website: <http://www.powerofcommunity.org/cm/index.php>

- Global Greenhouse Warming is a website that tracks extreme weather events around the world: drought, flooding, severe storms, severe winter, tropical cyclone, wildfires, and extreme heat waves.

Website: <http://www.global-greenhouse-warming.com/extreme-weather.html>

- Cuba Hurricanes: Real-time reports of current hurricane threats to Cuba provided by an office in Old Havana. Also information on hurricanes of historical significance to Cuba.

Website: <http://www.cubahurricanes.org/>

- CIDEM and Ecosur specialise in building low-cost community housing using eco-materials. They have projects around the world and are based in Cuba.

Website: <http://www.wall.de/en/home>

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/6t6jtf> and the company

Afghanistan's Juicy Solution to Drug Trade

Afghanistan is the world's largest source of the illegal drugs opium and heroin (International Narcotics Control Board), both of which are derived from the bright-red flower, the poppy (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poppy>).

The country produced 8,200 tons of heroin in 2007, up 34 percent from the previous year.

The negative consequences of the flourishing drug trade are numerous: it is destabilizing Afghanistan's neighbours and undermining political and legal institutions, addiction rates are soaring, and addicts are spreading HIV/AIDS.

All of this gives Afghanistan's farmers a bad image. But that could change with the launch of a new brand for Afghanistan: "Anar, Afghan Pomegranate." It is hoped this sweet fruit will lure farmers away from the illegal trade and boost the country's image at the same time. The red fruit that contains hundreds of seeds (<http://tinyurl.com/dhrzfq>), is a local delicacy and has a regional reputation for excellence. It is hoped the pomegranate fruit trees will draw farmers away from the market for the red poppy flower.

By launching the product with its own logo and brand, producers hope the Afghani pomegranate will be able to benefit from a wave of interest in Western markets in the antioxidant qualities of the fruit (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antioxidant>). Boxes of the fruit come clearly stamped with the logo, a sliced fruit with seeds spilling out, and the brand name.

A sophisticated branding and marketing campaign can make all the difference when a Southern country is exporting its products to wealthier nations.

Rather than having the product disappear amongst the plethora of products on a market stall or in the supermarket, clear and sophisticated branding quickly fixes a reputation with customers and significantly increases return purchases.

As consultants KPMG make clear, "For many businesses, the strength of their brands is a key driver of profitability and cash flow."

Yet many small businesses fail to think about their brand values or how design will improve their product or service.

The Afghani pomegranate had been enjoying export success since 2007, when it became a big hit with supermarket shoppers in Dubai. The French supermarket chain Carrefour expanded its order to all its Middle Eastern stores. It is hoped the branding will grow and secure these export markets.

There are more than 48 kinds of Afghani pomegranates. The highly prized Kandari pomegranate – named after its home province in the south of the country – is so popular in India, it will be branded "Kandari Pomegranate."

Afghan Agriculture Minister Mohammad Asif Rahimi told a Kabul launch ceremony last November that Afghan pomegranates are the best in the world. "It's sweet, it's juicy," he said.

The launch was an apt reflection of the risks of doing business in Afghanistan: it had extensive security and bomb-sniffing dogs.

For Afghani farmers, the pomegranate offers the attraction of more profit than growing poppies: farmers can make US\$2,000 per acre, compared to US\$1,320 for poppies.

While the financial incentive is there, there are many obstacles to making this alternative market a success. The country is a war zone in many places, and exporting through the road network can be perilous, with frequent attacks. Things became so bad last year, a shipment of the pomegranates had to be sent by US military aircraft.

Taking on the lucrative drug trade and its highly sophisticated global networks is not easy. Drug traffickers provide farmers with credit, advance payments, long-term contracts, technical advice and many other benefits farmers do not receive for growing legal crops.

It is hoped the fruit will be more than just a success on its own, and that it will boost the brand of Afghanistan as a nation as well.

"Afghanistan has a mixed-brand heritage," said Loren Stoddard, USAID's head of alternative development and agriculture.

Stoddard said the country is hoping to break with its image of war and extremism, and play to its exotic image in the Western mind. The Afghani pomegranate industry is receiving US\$12 million from donors to modernize and expand.

Using design to profit from overseas markets has many advantages. But according to Monique Thoonen, managing director of Dutch Design in Development – an NGO experienced in helping Southern entrepreneurs break overseas markets – getting the steps right is critical.

"If you want to focus on a wider market you have to convince buyers that you understand what is wanted in all fields: design, product development, good presentation at a (trade) fair," she said. "And if you have convinced the buyer, then you must make sure that your organization is organized in such way that you can make promises come true.

"Designing good products is one thing, but during product development also a good and effective production process has to be taken in account. Making the process too complex will result in high price setting, long lead times and maybe even poor quality. Besides, also the transportation of goods must be taken in consideration, bulky goods are very expensive, goods should be easy to pack and not easily break during transport. Goods must be able to resist high humidity and temperatures during transport."

The Netherlands is well known as a global centre for high-quality product design. Dutch Design in Development works with importers, retailers, NGOs and foundations, matching them with a Dutch designer to develop their product and then provide them with advice on the Dutch and European markets.

LINKS:

- Dutch Design in Development: Dutch designers are able to offer free support to new and small businesses in developing countries looking to export products to Europe.

Website: www.ddid.nl/english/index.html

- Small businesses looking to develop their brand can find plenty of free advice and resources here:

Website: www.brandingstrategyinsider.com

- Brandchannel: The world's only online exchange about branding, packed with resources, debates and contacts to help businesses intelligently build their brand

Website: www.brandchannel.com

- A report on Afghanistan's heroin drug trade. **Website:** www.incb.org/incb/press_releases.html
- Food Safety - From the Farm to the Fork is the European Commission's guidelines on food safety and how to prepare food for import into the European Community. **Website:** http://ec.europa.eu/food/international/trade/index_en.htm

- EMN Europe is a company that organizes all logistics for importing goods into Europe, including making sure all legal requirements are met.

Website: www.eurotradeconcept.nl

- Just Food is a web portal packed with the latest news on the global food industry and packed with events and special briefings to fill entrepreneurs in on the difficult issues and constantly shifting market demands. **Website:** <http://www.just-food.com>

DIY Solution Charges Mobile Phones with Batteries

There are now more than 3.5 billion mobile phones in use around the world. In the past five years, their use and distribution has exploded across the global South, including in once hard-to-reach places in Africa. In fact, Africa is the world's fastest growing mobile phone market. Over the past five years the continent's mobile phone usage has increased at an annual rate of 65 percent - twice the rate of Asia.

The world's poor are creative users of mobile phones, adapting these powerful tools to help with business, saving and spending money, and communicating with the outside world. As powerful as mobile phones are, they need electricity to stay functioning. And it is the struggle to find a steady supply of electricity that vexes many in the South.

There are wind-up mobile phone chargers, solar powered chargers (<http://tinyurl.com/bg3wac>), and mobile phone chargers you wave about. But most of these devices are, to someone who is poor and living in the South, expensive and hard to find. So what to do when it is not possible to buy a solar powered mobile phone charger?

Necessity is the mother of much invention. And one inventing mother is Mrs. Muyonjo, a housewife in a remote village of Ivukula in Iganga district, Eastern Uganda. She used to ride her bicycle for 20 miles in order to get to the nearest small town with an electricity charger for her mobile phone battery.

If that wasn't a struggle enough, she was one day deceived by a vendor running a village battery charger.

"I will never give my telephone to the village battery chargers again," she told the Women of Uganda Network (www.wougnet.org). "I gave them my new phone for charging, and they changed my battery and instead returned to me an old battery whose battery life can only last for one day."

Ripped off by the vendor and unable to find the money or time to charge the battery daily, she decided to find an alternative charging solution.

"I looked at what was readily available to me and came up with my own charger. I devised this method to enable me to charge my battery every day. It works perfectly."

She rigged up a mobile phone charger from ordinary D-size batteries that are readily available in the village for powering radios and light torches. By bundling together five batteries, removing the plug from the phone charger, and attaching the bare wires to the positive (+) and negative (-) terminals of the batteries, she was able to charge the phone's battery.

A simple solution that shows there is no need to be a prisoner of technology, just its adaptor.

LINKS:

- Women of Uganda Network: an NGO initiated by women's organizations in Uganda to develop the use of ICTs among women as tools to share information and address issues collectively. **Website:** <http://www.wougnet.org/cms/index.php>
- MobileActive is a community of people and organizations using mobile phones for social impact. They have many tools, resources and contacts for Southern activists and entrepreneurs to use. They see the 3.5 billion mobile phones in the world providing unprecedented opportunities for organizing, communications, and service and information delivery. **Website:** <http://mobileactive.org/>
- Textually.org: a very inspiring website profiling loads of innovations with mobile phones in the developing world. **Website:** <http://tinyurl.com/bpo9kr>

African Bus to Tackle African Roads

Roads in many parts of Africa are rough at best, and hostile to vehicles designed with smooth, flat highways in mind. Even in countries like South Africa, where modern highways are common, a quick turn off the smooth highway to visit many communities will mean tackling makeshift dirt roads. In these conditions, buses imported from Western Europe are at a disadvantage when they hit the bone-jarring reality of potholed roads.

In the West African country of Ivory Coast, a manufacturer has decided to tackle the problem head on by designing and manufacturing a long-distance passenger bus just for African conditions.

The engineering arm of the national transport company, Sotra (<http://www.sotra.ci/sotraindustries.php>) (<http://www.sotra.ci/index.php?rub=act>), decided it could save money and create a bus better suited to African conditions.

"We want the transfer of technology in Africa," Mamadou Coulibaly, Sotra Industries director, told the BBC. "And we want to build our own buses with our specification."

"In Europe the technology is very sophisticated with lots of electronic devices. In Africa we don't need this.

"We just need robust buses because our roads are not very well done like in Europe. This is an African design for Africa."

The African bus has fewer seats than European ones, and it can pack 100 people inside. It is a successful formula that has now attracted orders from other African countries.

Three buses are already in operation and more are in the works on a production line. They are designed and made in the largest city, Abidjan, building on an existing chassis and engine base made by European truck company Iveco. Sotra plans to build 300 buses a year in three models: coach, urban and tourist.

"I think it's a good thing," Isaac Gueu, an Abidjan accountant, told the BBC. "It'll help students to move about in more comfort."

Not only is the accomplishment impressive as an example of made-in-Africa manufacturing, but it was also completed while the country was going through a civil war and political crisis.

Sotra is an experienced manufacturer, and built its reputation with reliable boat-buses (<http://tinyurl.com/bot6fv>) that ply the country's lagoons.

Africa's roads lag behind the rest of the world: In 1997, Africa (excluding South Africa) had 171,000 kilometres of paved roads -- about 18 percent less than Poland, a country roughly the size of Zimbabwe. As efforts to complete the trans-African highways continue (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trans-African_Highway_network), the quality of existing roads is deteriorating. In 1992 about 17 percent of sub-Saharan Africa's primary roads were paved, but by 1998 the figure had fallen to 12 percent (World Bank). More than 80 percent of unpaved roads are only in fair condition and 85 per cent of rural feeder roads are in poor condition and cannot be used during the wet season. In Ethiopia, 70 percent of the population has no access to all-weather roads.

Africa also has an appalling road accident rate, mainly attributed to the use of minibuses and other makeshift buses. Each year the number of road deaths and disabilities due to road accidents rises. It is estimated if things carry on as they are, the number of yearly traffic deaths across the continent will reach 144,000 by 2020, a 144 percent increase on today's deaths.

A properly designed bus is a safer option than trying to pack passengers into a tippy minibus.

On top of making road passenger travel safer and more comfortable, Sotra is creating jobs in Africa and reducing dependence on imports. Beholden to importing sophisticated goods from outside the continent, Africa's wealth is spent to the benefit of others, and at the expense of high-value jobs at home.

Coulibaly is confident Sotra will reach its goal.

"We have been to school in Europe and we think that we are able today to build our own buses; there are no special difficulties," he said.

In Nigeria, Innoson Vehicle Manufacturing Company Limited (INNOVEMCO) (<http://innosongroup.com/>) is, in collaboration with Chinese manufacturers, building a huge auto plant in Nnewi (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nnewi>) where a wide range of commercial and utility vehicles will be produced for the Nigerian market and some countries in West Africa.

LINKS:

1) Africar: A South African company making four-wheel drive vehicles.

Websites: <http://www.africarautomobiles.co.za/africar-home.htm>

2) AfriGadget is a website dedicated to showcasing African ingenuity. A team of bloggers and readers contribute their pictures, videos and stories from around the continent. The stories of innovation are inspiring. It is a testament to Africans bending the little they have to their will, using creativity to overcome life's challenges. **Website:** <http://www.afrigadget.com/>

Window on the World

■ OECD: SME Financing in the Global Financial Crisis Publisher: OECD

In a world troubled by a global financial and economic crisis, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) are particularly vulnerable to the credit crunch due to their heavy dependence on bank credit and limited recourse to financial markets. In this scenario, the OECD report on "SME financing in the global financial crisis" suggests a number of measures to be adopted to deal with the immediate adverse impacts of the global crisis.

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/b38cyv>

■ The Next Billions: Unleashing Business Potential in Untapped Markets

Focuses on business models along the food value chain – from agricultural production through food processing, retailing and consumption. Food value chains provide the main source of economic activity for 70 percent of the BOP, and capture the majority of spending (over US \$1.3 trillion per year on food).

Website: <http://www.nextbillion.net/>

- **Where am I Wearing? A Global Tour to the Countries, Factories and People that Make Our Clothes** by Kelsey Timmerman
Publisher John Wiley
Website: www.amazon.com

- **Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery**
by Siddharth Karn, Publisher: Columbia University Press
Website: www.amazon.com

- **Falling Off the Edge: Globalization, World Peace, and Other Lies**
by Alex Perry, Publisher: Macmillan
This is an exhilarating journey to some of the planet's remotest and most dangerous places to explore the sharp end of globalization. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, international corporations and governments have embraced the idea of a global village: a shrinking, booming world in which everyone benefits. What if that's not the case? **Website:** www.amazon.com

- **Green Collar Economy** by Van Jones, Publisher: HarperOne. In *The Green Collar Economy*
Acclaimed activist and political advisor Van Jones delivers a real solution that both rescues the economy and saves the environment.
Website: <http://www.vanjoness.net/>

- **Philanthrocapitalism**
by Matthew Bishop and Michael Green, Publisher: Bloomsbury Press.

The book explains how a web of wealthy, motivated donors, including Bill Gates, Bill Clinton, George Soros, Angelina Jolie and Bono, have set out to change the world. **Website:** <http://www.philanthrocapitalism.net/>

- **50 Reasons to Buy Fair Trade**
by Miles Litvinoff and John Madeley, Publisher: Pluto Press.
The book provides a critical guide to international trade and shows fair trade presents a realistic and positive alternative for farmers and producers in developing countries, their trading partners in the global North and aware consumers.
Website: www.plutobooks.com

- **Corporate Social Responsibility and International Development**
by Dr Michael Hopkins, Publisher: Earthscan

Hopkins makes the case that governments and their international agencies have failed to rid the planet of poverty, and that the solution lies with the private sector. Full of essential ideas for how business can lead the way in deriving the good from globalisation. Email for a copy: jf@shibboleth.com

- **The Financial Crisis and the Developing World**
by Jayati Ghosh
Website: http://www.networkideas.org/news/oct2008/news25_World.htm

- **South-South Regionalism and Trade Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region**
by Mehdi Shafaeddin
Website: http://www.networkideas.org/featart/oct2008/fa03_South_Trade.htm

- **Foreign Aid and Bad Government: Helping entrepreneurs is the right approach**
by Iqbal Z. Quadir. Article in Wall Street Journal.
Website: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123327734124831471.html>

- **Fixing Global Finance: How to Curb Financial Crises in the 21st Century.** by Martin Wolf
Publisher: Yale University Press.
The globalisation of finance should have brought substantial benefits. In practice it brought a series of devastating currency and banking crises in the 1980s and 1990s, particularly in the developing world. The failure of advanced countries and of the IMF to rescue the damaged economies of Asia, Russia or Brazil taught those countries, and the emerging Chinese giant, an overwhelming lesson: never again. Emerging economies ceased importing capital, but by keeping their exchange rates down, running huge current account surpluses, recycling capital inflows and accumulating enormous foreign currency reserves, they began to export it on a vast scale. **Website:** www.amazon.com

Upcoming Events

2009

February

- Localisation on Environmental Business and Supply Base in India

New Delhi, India (3 February 2009)

The goal of the Second International Scientific and Business Congress on Protecting the Climate is to further the development and transfer of clean technologies, as well as the creation of a localisation program in India with the emphasis on private business.

Website: www.EuroAkadem.com/climate

- **Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2009**

New Delhi, India (5 February 2009)

The DSDS a global forum that seeks to provide long-term solutions for sustainable development. It has witnessed participation by global stakeholders including heads of state/government, ministers, and dignitaries comprising Nobel laureates, development practitioners, scientists, academicians, and corporate leaders from across the world. The summit in 2009 would seek to reinforce the climate change agenda of the previous year.

Website: dsds.terin.org/2009/index.htm

- **3rd Annual Climate Change Summit 2009**

London, UK (17-18 February 2009)

The goal of the Second International Scientific and Business Congress on Protecting the Climate is to further the development and transfer of clean technologies, as well as the creation of a localisation program in India with the emphasis on private business.

Website: www.ethicalcorp.com/climate

- **Mobile Tech4 Social Change**

New York, USA (21 February 2009)

The goal of the Second International Scientific and Business Congress on Protecting the Climate is to further the development and transfer of clean technologies, as well as the creation of a localisation program in India with the emphasis on private business.

Website: <http://mobiletech4socialchangenyc.eventbrite.com/>

- **Sustainable Bioenergy 2009**

London, UK (23 February 2009)

This conference will examine all the new trends in the bioenergy market – solutions to the food vs. fuel debate, "next generation" biofuels, biomass for power generation, development of biorefineries – and how they are influencing investment decisions in Europe.

Website: www.environmental-finance.com/conferences/2009/SustBio09/intro.htm

March

- **Green Energy Summit 2009**

Bangalore, India (3 March 2009)

Green Energy Summit 2009 is a world-class forum for varied stakeholders from Solar, Wind, Biomass, IT, Transport, Construction, Aviation, Nanotechnology and Biotechnology, to come together and solve some of mankind's most compelling problems.

Website: www.greenenergysummit.com

- **Fair Trade Business Conference 2009**

Portland, Oregon, USA (27-29 March 2009)

As it celebrates its 15th birthday, the Fair Trade Federation will bring together leaders in the field of fair trade and social enterprise to discuss key issues and offer practical training to improve operations.

Website: www.FairTradeFederation.org

- **An Alternative Transport Future**

London, UK (5 March 2009)

Given the balance between the soaring demand for transport, the environment and society needs, the demand for sustainable transport is becoming increasingly pressing. This conference will seek to address the steps which need to be taken by policymakers, the transport industry and the investment community to resolve this conundrum.

Website: www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/conferences/view/-/id/134/

- **International Development and Aid: Controversies and Successes**

New York City, USA (7-8 March 2009)

Presented by Mount Sinai Global Health Center.

Website: <http://mssm-ghc.org/conference2009>

- **Corporate Social Responsibility: Environmental projects in developing countries**

Brussels, Belgium (13 March 2009)

EuropeAid is announcing an environmental "Auction Floor" conference which aims to build effective and inclusive partnerships for environmental projects in developing countries by bringing together development actors and a wide range of potential donors including private sector foundations. Almost 100 environmental project proposals worldwide that are looking for funding are presented in a booklet. Match-making between donors and projects will be facilitated at the conference, with networking by sub-themes and regions. Donors will find easily find good quality projects to fund! Private sector participants will also get a chance to share what they are doing in terms of Corporate Social Responsibility.

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/chvyjk>

- **World Biofuels Markets 2009**

Brussels, Belgium (16-18 March 2009)

Biofuels has come under a concerted media campaign alleging that they are all unsustainable and have adverse impacts. Some biofuels can be harmful to the environment but most biofuels provide a positive energy balance, can play an increasing role in reducing transport emissions, can be developed from feedstocks without impacting food production, can be grown on land without impacting delicate ecosystems or water use, can help alleviate poverty in developing countries.

Website: www.worldbiofuelsmarkets.com

- **5th World Water Forum**

Istanbul, Turkey (16-22 March 2009)

The World Water Forum, organized every three years by the World Water Council in close collaboration with the authorities of the hosting country, is the largest international event in the field of water.

Website: www.worldwaterforum5.org/

- **Microfinance Forum 2009**

Vienna, Austria (19-20 March 2009)

Banks have started to consider a closer link between their micro-finance-oriented products and their 'normal' business. There is increasing commitment to microfinance, greater variety in microfinance products and a closer focus on the market. The conference brings together top representatives of the microfinance and banking environment as well as microfinance networks from all around the world.

Website: www.uniglobalresearch.eu/en/event/2009-66

- **Sustainability 2012: Shaping an Environmental Legacy for World Cities**

London, UK (25-27 March 2009)

The conference goal will be to provide a worthwhile sustainability blueprint for the development of future world cities and other large scale regeneration projects, and also for cities hosting future Olympics.

Website: www.sustainablegeneration.org

- **FEDERE 2009 – CSR, a lever to overcome the crisis?**

Paris, France (25-26 March 2009)

The way out of the crisis that is affecting the world economy involves sustainable development. What is the best way of exploiting the potentials of CSR? What management tools will be helpful? How to control an efficient sustainable development strategy? What are the most promising innovations and sectors? More than 600 leaders and managers of enterprises, NGOs, international institutions, and experts will attend the eighth FEDERE Forum to discuss these challenges.

Website: www.federe.fr

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As it celebrates its 15th birthday, the Fair Trade Federation will bring together leaders in the field of fair trade and social enterprise to discuss key issues and offer practical training to improve operations.

Website:
www.FairTradeFederation.org

- **Ethical Sourcing Forum North America 2009**

Bridgewater, New York (26-27 March 2009)

Broaden your understanding of sustainable business practices currently transforming global supply chain practices by attending the Ethical Sourcing Forum and learn about models that are being implemented and enablers that are driving

success from business leaders, policy makers, academics and key industry stakeholders.

Website: <http://www.clear-profit.com/fw/esf09.htm>

- **Corporate Responsibility 2009: Building a New Corporate Agenda**

London, UK (30-31 March 2009)

This annual Chatham House conference, produced in partnership with FTSE, will bring together leading experts from business, civil society and government to discuss the challenges that will shape the 21st century. In particular, it will explore the outlines of a new agenda for business and its stakeholders to respond to increasing natural resource constraints, the need to promote human rights standards, and bring new technologies to market more quickly.

Website: www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/conferences/view/-/id/137/

- **Solar Innovation and Investment**

Shanghai, China (31 March to 1 April 2009)

With the Asian & Chinese solar market particularly flourishing Solar Innovation & Investment Asia will be run alongside the 4th Annual AsiaSolar Expo, an event that focuses on photovoltaic's, solar system projects and solar architecture.

Website: www.greenpowerconferences.com/renewablesmarkets/sii_china.html

April

- **Sustainability through Conservation and Recycling**

Cape Town, South Africa (4-5 April 2009)

The rapid growth of the world economy is straining the sustainable use of the Earth's natural resources due to modern society's extensive use of metals, materials and products. An astute and conscious application and use of metals, materials and products supported by the reuse and recycling of these materials and end-of-life products is imperative to the preservation of the Earth's resources. The realisation of the ambitions of sustainable use of metals, materials and resources demands that the different disciplines of the material and consumer product system are connected and harmonised.

Website: <http://www.min-eng.com/srcr09/>

- **3rd IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD2009)**

Doha, Qatar (17-19 April 2009)

The 3rd IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD2009) will be held 17-19 April 2009 at Carnegie Mellon's state-of-the-art campus in Doha, Qatar. This conference will act as a focal point for new scholarship in the field of ICT and international development. Confirmed speakers include a Keynote by William H. Gates, Chairman of Microsoft Corporation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Website: <http://www.ictd2009.org>

- **Engineering Sustainability 2009**

Pittsburgh, USA (19-21 April 2009)

This focused conference will bring together engineers and scientists from academia, government, industry, and non-profits to share results of cutting edge research and practice directed at development of environmentally sustainable buildings and infrastructure.

Website: www.engr.pitt.edu/msi/2009conference/confmain.htm

- **Carbon Trade China 2009**

Beijing, China (21-23 April 2009)

This event will gather different levels of CDM owners & developers and tailor-make the conference for them. The conference attracts expectedly 600 senior executives including 300 + international leading buyers & service providers, 250+ China local CDM owner & developers, and 20+ provincial CDM service centres. 11 CDM project introduction, distinctive exhibition zones and pre-arranged "One-to-One Meeting" session are designed to facilitate the deep communications between buyers and sellers.

Website: www.chinacarbontrade.com.cn

May

- **May**

Energy Efficiency Asia 2009

Beijing, China (7-8 May 2009)

Energy Efficiency Asia 2009 will invite decision-makers and world-renowned experts along with authorities, famous entrepreneurs, hi-tech providers, ESCOs, financial institutions, equipment vendors and relevant sectors to gather in Beijing to discuss the future trend of Asia energy efficiency market as well as opportunities and business strategies of the energy efficiency market in Asia especially in China.

Website: www.globaleaders.com/en/2009/eea/eea.asp

■ **Investing in Africa's Emerging Markets**

London, UK (12 May 2009)

Focusing on the fastest emerging economies in Sub-Saharan Africa, including Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Ghana, Senegal and Angola, this major event will feature leading policy makers, economists and financiers speaking on new and growing opportunities for FDI investment in Africa.

Website: www.chathamhouse.org.uk

■ **34th WEDC International Conference: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Sustainable Development and Multisectoral Approaches**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (18-22 May 2009)

The WEDC International Conference is a highly respected, global platform for practitioners, decision makers, academics and researchers who lead water and sanitation innovation in developing countries. Click [here](#) to view some photos of the 2008 conference.

Website: <http://www.wedconference.co.uk/>

■ **Sustainability Summit 2009**

Santa Clara, USA (27-28 March 2009)

This event will bring together global corporate visionaries, policy makers, environmental advocacy groups, and many others to discuss how industry can work together to meet the needs of a planet in crisis.

Website: <http://sustainabilitysummit2009.com/>

June

■ **International Student Energy Summit**

Calgary, Canada (11-13 June 2009)

The International Student Energy Summit (ISES) is a global forum that focuses on sustainable resource management and the role that students will play in defining the future of energy development. ISES is targeting a delegate base of 500 international, multidisciplinary post secondary students in undergraduate and graduate studies interested in energy. This event will create a network of driven individuals looking to make a difference in the energy sector.

Website: www.studentenergy.org

■ **The Global Corporate Responsibility Reporting Summit 2009**

Brussels, Belgium (11-12 June 2009)

The past decade has seen a boom in corporate social responsibility and sustainability reporting - from 360 CSR reports in 1997, to 2,820 in 2007. Now, more than ever, stakeholders are clamouring for accurate and timely corporate responsibility information. With the economic climate the way it currently is, uncovering the true value of your CSR report will pay greater dividends than ever before.

Website: www.ethicalcorp.com/globalreporting/

■ **Cities and Climate Change: Responding to an Urgent Agenda**

Marseilles, France (28-30 June 2009)

At a time when climate change is a major priority for the international community, this Symposium aims at pushing forward the research agenda on climate change from a city's perspective. It is structured around five broad research clusters which represent the most relevant issues faced by cities and peri-urban areas on climate change.

Website: www.urs2009.net/

July

■ Global Conference on Global Warming

Istanbul, Turkey (5-9 July 2009)

The primary themes of the conference are global warming and climate change, not only in engineering and science but also in all other disciplines (e.g. ecology, education, social sciences, economics, management, political sciences, and information technology).

Website: <http://www.gcgw.org>

September

■ 2009 Global Youth Enterprise Conference.

Washington, DC. (September 29-30, 2009)

Making Cents International is pleased to announce the 2009 Global Youth Enterprise Conference that will take place in Washington, DC September 29-30, 2009 at the Cafritz Conference Center. This participatory and demand-driven learning event will convene 350 leading stakeholders in the fields of youth enterprise, employment, livelihoods development, microfinance, education, and health. Members of all sectors will share their promising practices, unique approaches, and groundbreaking ideas that help youth develop the necessary skills and opportunities to start their own businesses or seek quality employment. Registration will open January 25th and we invite you to submit a proposal during the Call for Proposals process, which will launch February 16th.

For more information, please visit: www.youthenterpriseconference.org.

October

■ OECD 3rd World Forum: Charting Progress, Building Visions, Improving Life

Busan, Korea (27-30 October 2009)

The next World Forum, focused on **Charting Progress, Building Visions, Improving Life** will attract some 1 500 high level participants with a mixture of politicians and policy makers, opinion leaders, Nobel laureates, statisticians, academics, journalists and representatives of civil society from over 130 countries.

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/chqjll>

Training Opportunities

ONGOING

- The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the USA's best known private universities, has made all 1,800 courses in its curriculum (environmental sciences, computer studies, physics...) available free on-line, using an open source system called OpenCourseWare (OCW). Each month, some 1.5 million surfers, most of them based outside the USA, follow the lessons and lectures in PDF, audio and video formats, some are also translated into French and Portuguese. MIT is working with other universities to help them set up their own OCW.

Website: <http://ocw.mit.edu/>

■ Youth Financial Services Course: Emerging Best Practices

Washington DC, USA, (17-19 September 2008)

—Drawing from experts and experiences around the world this highly interactive course will provide participants with a comprehensive overview of current best practices and emerging lessons from those who are offering credit and savings products to youth.

The objective of this course is to provide practical information that will assist youth-serving organizations when deciding which service and delivery mechanisms are most appropriate for their youth populations and program objectives. This is aimed at decision-makers of youth-serving organizations and others who are interested in offering youth financial services to their respective youth populations.

Click the link for the registration form: [registration](#).

■ Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs

[Grameen Info](#)

- **Two Workshops Offered for Development Practitioners**

The community-managed microfinance course deals with providing sustainable financial services for the very poor. Although MFIs are well-established, they have mostly failed to penetrate remote rural areas because the costs are too high and the demand for credit too small. Meanwhile, over the last 15 years, massive, sustainable programmes have emerged that reach this target group at very low cost, based on autonomous, small-scale savings and loan associations. Co-sponsored by the SNHU Community Economic Development Masters Program at the Open University of Tanzania and VSL Associates

Website: <http://rs6.net>

- **The Citizen Journalism in Africa Programme**

–The Hivos/SANGONET Civil Journalism in Africa Project aims at building the capacity of civil society organisations to use online and offline citizen journalism as a means of publication, lobby, networking and knowledge sharing with their constituencies. The focus will be on both traditional and new media. Special attention will be given to the development of sound and ethical journalistic, lobby, networking and publication skills. Supported by the European Union, the project will be implemented over the next three years.

Website: <http://www.citizenjournalismafrica.org/>

- **The Grassroots Reporting Project**

–One of our goals at AfriGadget (<http://www.afrigadget.com/>) is to find more stories of African ingenuity. The Grassroots Reporting Project is our plan to find, equip and train more AfriGadget reporters in the field throughout Africa. AfriGadget's goal is to leverage the power of current and emerging technology such as video cameras, digital cameras, laptops and phones to bring quality content online and eventually on television. A combination of mobile phones and computers will be assigned to individuals in 10 African countries for the purpose of getting more on-the-ground reporting of stories of African ingenuity to the world. An AfriGadget editor will be in charge of identifying the best candidates for inclusion in the program. This editor will also travel to each country to train and equip the new AfriGadget reporters for the program.

Website: <http://www.afrigadget.com/>

CAREERS

- **New Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans**

–Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, [africacareerguidance.com](http://www.africacareerguidance.com) is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africacareerguidance.com

- **African Diaspora Skills Database**

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: <http://www.diaspora-centre.org/NEWSLETTER/Database>

- **Aid Workers Network (AWN)**

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: <http://www.aidworkers.net>

- **Bizzlounge**

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website: <http://bizzlounge.com>

- **Business Action for Africa**

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: <http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com>

- **Business Fights Poverty**

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: <http://businessfightspovertyning.com>

- **Business in Development Network (BiD)**

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: <http://www.bidnetwork.org>

- **Catalogue of Poverty Networks**

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing

this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations.

Website: <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do>

- **Connections for Development (CfD)**

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest – collectively "our world".

Website: <http://www.cfdnetwork.co.uk>

- **Development Crossing**

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Website: <http://www.developmentcrossing.com>

- **DevelopmentAid.org**

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

Website: <http://www.developmentaid.org>

- **dgCommunities on the Development Gateway**

dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: <http://topics.developmentgateway.org>

- **Diaspora African Forum**

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

Website: <http://www.diasporafricanforum.org>

- **Eldis Communities**

Eldis aims to share the best in development, policy, practice and research. The Eldis Community is a free on-line community where you can meet others involved in international development and discuss the issues that are important to you.

Website: <http://communityeldis.org>

- **Enterprise Development Exchange**

The Enterprise Development Exchange links related communities of practice to advance sustainable poverty eradication. It is facilitated by The SEEP Network through the Value Initiative.

Website: <http://edexchange.seepnetwork.org>

- **Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum**

The FSN Forum is a global community of FSN practitioners. It bridges the knowledge divide among the different communities involved in FSN policies and strategies - such as academics, researchers and development practitioners - to improve cooperation and impacts; members in many countries across the world's five continents.

Website: <http://km.fao.org/fsn/>

- **Global Development Matters**

Global Development Matters is designed to engage U.S. citizens and leaders in examining how rich world policies affect global poverty reduction. There is an Election '08 blog.

Website: <http://www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org>

- **GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development**

The GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development are open to all practitioners, counterparts, research institutions, donors and interested consultants worldwide facilitating an inter agency exchange of experiences and best practices. This weekly updated website provides you with recent news and lessons learned from GTZ as well as from other development agencies and research institutions in the field of economic development. Its core is a comprehensive database. Participation in this open community is free of charge. However, registration is necessary.

Websites: *Africa:* <http://www2.gtz.de/network/wiram-afrika/gtz-community/>

Middle East and North Africa: <http://www2.gtz.de/network/mena/open-community/>

Asia: <http://www2.gtz.de/assets-asia/gtz-community/>

- **LED knowledge**

This website is an online space for sharing the experiences and resources of people and organizations supporting local economic development processes at the local level. LED Knowledge is the result of a joint effort of the ILO-LED programme team based in Geneva, and the ILO training arm, the International Training Centre, based in Turin, Italy.

Website: <http://www.ledknowledge.org>

- **Network of Networks Impact Evaluation Initiative (Nonie)**

Nonie is a network of networks for impact evaluation comprised of the DAC Evaluation Network, The United Nations

Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), and a fourth network drawn from the regional evaluation associations. Its purpose is to foster a program of impact evaluation activities based on a common understanding of the meaning of impact evaluation and approaches to conducting impact evaluation.

Website: <http://www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/index.html>

- **TakingITGlobal.org**

TakingITGlobal.org is an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action in their local and global communities.

Website: <http://profiles.takingitglobal.org>

- **XING Group Microfinance Industry**

In this new XING Group, microfinance professionals from all over the globe link and discuss topics of interest. Use this forum to discuss financial technology, find employment, identify training opportunities and events, and share knowledge resources with fellow members of the microfinance industry. XING is an online networking tool to manage all personal contacts and to find interesting new business contacts. It's amazing how quickly it facilitates contact with key people.

Website: <http://www.xing.com/group-21391.0fc826/4466179>

- **AfDevinfo - African Development Information Service**

AfDevinfo tracks the mechanics of political and economic development across Sub Saharan Africa. They draw together a diverse range of publicly available data and present it as an accessible and ever expanding online database.

Website: <http://www.afdevinfo.com>

- **Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM)**

The Growing Inclusive Markets Initiative has created a set of data, information and analytical products that will increase understanding of the markets of the poor, including existing opportunities and challenges.

Website: <http://www.growinginclusivemarkets.org>

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

- **Africa Entrepreneurship Platform**

–This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

Website: www.sacca.biz

- **Piramal Foundation in India**

–Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

Website: www.piramalprize.org

- **The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award**

–This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways.

Website: [Pioneers of Prosperity](http://PioneersofProsperity)

- **African Writers Fund**

–Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website: <http://www.trustafrica.org>

- **Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme**

–Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

Email: namstct@vsnl.com;

namstct@bol.net.in;

apknam@gmail.com;

Website: <http://www.scidev.net>

- **Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition**

–Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the 'world's first global youth

development competition'.

[Click here for more information](#)

- **US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design**

–AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250,000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

The Open Architecture Prize is the largest prize in the field of architecture and is designed to be a multi-year program that will draw competition from design teams around the world.

Website: <http://www.openarchitecturenetwork.org/>

- **PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana**

The [University of Ghana](#) has been awarded a project support grant by the [Alliance for a Green Revolution](#) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: <http://www.acci.org.za>

- **Institute of Social Studies in The Hague**

–A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development, www.focuss.info is a search engine for indexing and social book marking online resources in international development.

Website: <http://focuss.info/>

- **Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition**

–A social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in/>

- **Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund**

–They are looking for social entrepreneurs developing new solutions to social problems. They are accepting applications for their 2008 fellowships (two-year funding of up to US \$90,000 for 20 entrepreneurs.

Website: <http://www.echoinggreen.org/>

- **2008 Sustainable Banking Awards**

–The Financial Times, in partnership with IFC, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, today launched the 2008 edition of the FT Sustainable Banking Awards, the leading awards for triple bottom line banking.

Two new categories - Banking at the Bottom of the Pyramid, and Sustainable Investor of the Year - have been added to the ground-breaking programme.

The awards, now in their third year, were created by the FT and IFC to recognise banks that have shown leadership and innovation in integrating social, environmental and corporate governance objectives into their operations.

Website: <http://www.ifc.org>

FUNDING

- **UNESCO: International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation**

–The International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation was inaugurated in Kuala Lumpur in May 2008. The centre functions under the auspices of UNESCO. It facilitates the integration of a developmental approach into national science and technology and innovation policies, and provides policy advice. In parallel to organizing capacity-building and the exchange of experience and best practices, the centre conducts research and tackles specific problems in science, technology and innovation policy-making in developing countries.

Website: www.unesco.org

- **Funding - Google.org**

–While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing returns – and SMEs are a potentially high impact, high return investment. However, only a trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase this flow.

We want to show that SMEs can be profitable investments. We will do this by focusing on lowering transaction costs, deepening capital markets to increase liquidity, and catalyzing capital for investment. **Website:** www.google.org

- **Challenge InnoCentive**

–A challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable.

Website: <http://www.innocentive.com/>

You can read more about the challenges here: <http://www.rockfound.org>

■ **Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship**

–Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

Website: www.socialledge.org

Job Opportunities

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children's Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)

- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)

Please feel free to send your comments, feedback and/or suggestions to Cosmas Gitta
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